He also complained against the practice of registering large areas in the names of single individuals as that benefited only the foreigners and wealthy Government officers to the detriment of real agriculturists. He therefore prayed that it be ruled that more than five acres should not be registered in the name of a single individual.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

8. Reduction of the tharavila on lands reclaimed from backwaters.

Mr. K. Velayudha Panikkan (Member, Nominated) said that the Arayars lived mainly on the coast in Central Travancore and that their chief occupations were fish and coir industries. They were badly in need of sites for their habitation, the want of which retarded the progress of the industries to a great extent. It was not possible for them to go in for the registry of puduval lands in the interior, as their industries were centred on the coast. They could not take registry of kayal porambokes in their names on account of the prohibitive tharavila and assessment on such lands. The Member therefore prayed that the Government might be pleased to order the registry of kayal porambokes in their names recovering tharavila and assessment at rates not exceeding Rs. 15 and Re. 1, respectively, per acre.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

9. Necessity for a uniform rate of tharavila and assessment on puduval and poramboke lands.

Mr. K. Kochukunju Kurup (Member, Changanachery taluk) said that, though clause (6) of Rule 11 of the Puduval Rules, dated the 24th September 1914, fixed a minimum rate of tharavila of Rs. 25 per acre on reclamations from rivers, canals and backwaters, there were cases, in certain pakuthies of the Changanachery taluk, in which the rate had gone so high as Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 per cent. It required more than a thousand rupees to reclaim an acre of land and, with the tharavila, the price of land came to about Rs. 2,500 per acre, which was more than the market value of land in those pakuthies. If the prohibitive tharavila was not paid, the authorities put up the lands to auction and the original reclaimer lost his investment. There was also a similar complaint in regard to fixing the assessment on puduval lands. Para 6 of Rule 16 of the Puduval Rules laid down that, for puduval lands registered as wet, the rate of assessment should be fixed on the basis of the schedule of settlement rates for wet lands and on the analogy of the registered wet lands in the neighbourhood. The Member pointed out that the analogy of the registered wet lands in the neighbourhood was never taken into consideration and he quoted a few instances of departure from the wholesome rule. In view of the above difficulties and hardships, the Member prayed that a maximum rate of tharavila be fixed, which should not under any circumstances be exceeded, and also that instructions be issued to pay due regard to the tharam of neighbouring registered lands, in fixing the rate of assessment for puduval lands.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

10. Revision of the tharavila on cardamom lands.

Mr. Sanyasi Mallayan Chetty (Member, Devicolam taluk) said that the raising of the tharavila on cardamom lands from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre towards the close of 1089 fell heavily on the cardamom ryots. The season was not, in recent years, suitable for cardamom cultivation and the yield had therefore fallen very low. Further, owing to the war, the price of cardamom had also gone down. The condition of the cardamom ryots was very miserable at the present day and, if sympathetic aid were not accorded to them, they would be reduced to utter poverty. He represented that, in spite of the Government order cancelling the penal assessment imposed by the Commissioner, on cardamom lands occupied without permission, the amount realized under that head was not returned to the ryots who had paid the same.

Dewan.—The order was not intended to have retrospective effect and the refund of the amount already realized cannot be made.

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